

Engineers rebuild ANA barracks

By U.S. Marine Corps
Staff Sgt. Amy L. Forsythe
CJCMOTF PAO

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is securing the future and stability of Afghanistan by building permanent barracks, recreational facilities and the basic infrastructure for soldiers of the newly created national army.

In the last 18 months, the U.S. has led a 22-nation coalition in providing dynamic reconstruction results and increased centralized-government stability in Afghanistan. One of the most important components in achieving this was the creation of the Afghan National Army. Since its inception last year, the ANA has steadily increased in size reaching nearly 4,000 troops to date. The Afghan, U.S. and coalition forces' end state goal is to produce and maintain an Army of 70,000 soldiers.

"The sense of urgency associated with constructing the ANA Soldier Barracks is incredible," said Col. Robert Derrick, commander of USACE Transatlantic Programs Center, Winchester, Va.

"Every 35 days we've needed to have living quarters opened for a 600-man battalion," Derrick, a Laurel, Md. native, explained. U.S. and French special operations forces trained the initial eight battalions before that responsibility was recently turned over to the leadership within the ANA.

Derrick, the director of the USACE Afghanistan Area Office, and his 30-person team coordinate daily with representatives from the U.S. Embassy's Office of Military Cooperation, U.S. Central Command, Combined Joint Task Force-180, national ministry officials, local contractors and ANA commanders to ensure project specifications are outlined and adhered to.

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Photo by Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

Remembering the fallen...

A speaker gives a speech to servicemembers during a Kandahar Air Field ceremony to remember servicemembers killed during an ambush at Shkin Forward Operations Base, Afghanistan April 25. Airmen 1st Class Raymond Losano, 24, Tactical Air Control Party, 14th Air Support Operations Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., was killed during the battle and Pfc. Jerod R. Dennis, 19, of Oklahoma, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., died April 26 of wounds from the fight.

'Devil' CSM talks mission

By 1st Lt. Cory Angell
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — With almost 29 years of service in the United States Army, Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Kalinofski finds himself in one of the most challenging and rewarding positions of his career as the regimental command sergeant major for Task Force Devil.

The task force has the current mission to kill, capture and deny sanctuary to terrorists and those who harbor terrorists in Afghanistan.

TF Devil is comprised mainly of infantry battalions from the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment but it also contains other 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., elements, several tenant units and a battalion of Romanian infantry among other coalition ele-

ments.

Kalinofski feels that TF Devil has had a number of successes since it has been operating in Afghanistan.

"I'll tell you how I measure success," said Kalinofski. "In the four months that we've been here, this task force... in the various operations we've been doing, has been aggressively pursuing terrorists and disrupting all of their planning..."

"They have not been able to plan offensive operations, and as a result of that we continue to bring peace and stability to the area," said Kalinofski.

"Is it still bad guy country? Absolutely! Will it take time to route out some of these bad people? Yes."

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Russian spotters carry astronaut Ken Bowersox at the landing site of the Soyuz space capsule that returned him and two others to Earth.

Soyuz lands far off-course

ASTANA, Kazakhstan — A Russian capsule safely returned two astronauts and a cosmonaut from the international space station on Sunday, but the landing, nearly 500 kilometers (300 miles) 300 miles off target, triggered a nerve-racking two-hour search in the steppes of Central Asia.

The three men were finally spotted in the vast, brown, barren stretches of Kazakhstan by a recovery plane and waved to show they were fine. Helicopters arrived for them an hour or two later.

"I was just happy we were down, that everything was safe," astronaut Kenneth Bowersox told The Associated Press while flying back to cosmonaut headquarters at Star City outside Moscow. "It was the most beautiful dirt I've ever seen."

It was a dramatic end to a 5 1/2-month space station mission for Bowersox, who served as the commander, astronaut Donald Pettit and cosmonaut Nikolai Budarin.

Because it was the first manned space landing since the Columbia shuttle disaster and the first touchdown by NASA astronauts in a foreign spacecraft in a foreign land, tension was running high. It shot up when nothing was heard from the crew following its last radio call 16 minutes before touchdown. By coincidence, that was the same time communication ceased with the Columbia astronauts over Texas on February 1.



A tornado near Girard, Kansas, on Sunday.

Tornadoes sweep Midwest

RIVERSIDE, Mo. — A series of large tornadoes — one as wide as five football fields — swept across eastern Kansas and Missouri on Sunday afternoon.

At least one person has died in Wyandotte County, Kansas, emergency management officials said. Early reports indicated that people were being treated at hospitals for broken bones and other injuries.

Don Denney, a spokesman for the unified government of Kansas City, Kansas, and Wyandotte County, said the damage has been severe.

"We've sustained significant damage in the northwest section of our city," Denney said. "Dozens and dozens of homes have been leveled, and scores of others have been significantly damaged."

An 81-year-old man who was outside was killed when he was struck in the head by debris, Denney said.

Damage has been reported in three areas of Platte County, Missouri, said Sgt. Joseph King, with the Platte County Sheriff's Department. The affected areas are Tracy Township, North Moor and Riverside — all just north of Kansas City, he said.

Ryan Jewell, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, said it is still uncertain how the tornadoes will be ranked on the Fujita scale, which ranks tornadoes from F-0 to the most severe, F-5.

A site survey must be completed to categorize the storm, "but just unofficially, views of the storm damage appear to be in the range of F-3 or higher," Jewell said.

F-3 tornadoes have winds between 158

and 206 mph and are capable of severe damage, with roofs and some walls torn off well-constructed houses, and most trees uprooted.

Tornadoes also hit in and near Springfield, Stockton and Aurora, Missouri. Others appeared to be developing in Arkansas, western Tennessee and southeast Missouri.

Rumsfeld: WMD unlikely to be found at suspected sites

WASHINGTON — U.S. investigators are unlikely to find Iraq's alleged chemical and biological weapons at any site suspected of having them before the war, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Sunday.

"We've got multi-agency teams doing what they do," Rumsfeld told CNN's "Late Edition." "They're looking at the sites we have knowledge of, and of course the reality is that, if we have knowledge of a site — and a suspect site is probably the way we should phrase it — it's very likely things are not there."

He predicted that a better way to learn the location of the weapons would be through Iraqis volunteering information to U.S. authorities.

"The only way I know we're going to get it is through people. If anyone has any ideas, we're always happy to hear them," he said.

Before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, the Bush administration had said pre-emptive military action was needed to strip former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime of its alleged weapons of mass destruction to ensure they were not passed to terrorists. Saddam insisted he had no such weapons.

Rumsfeld told CNN he was "not frustrated at all" by the failure of U.S. troops to locate the former Iraqi regime's alleged stockpiles of banned weapons.

"There are many teams of people out looking at the sites that we're aware of," Rumsfeld said. "But, as I say, I don't think we're going to just stumble over something. I think people are going to come up finally, and say, 'Here's what happened. Here's what they've done,' and already there are things that have been related to us that have been helpful."

Latin party heats up Bagram

Story and photos by
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Det.

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – “*Que comienza la fiesta!*” A group of Latinos play traditional music, and their audience is not only Latino. Everyone present claps or taps their foot to the Latino heat.

This was the scene Saturday night at the first Bagram Latin party. The party was held at Dragon Palace after about six weeks of planning.

The party was coordinated by Pfc. Christina Carde, print journalist, 11th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Polk, La., because she wanted to bring a different atmosphere to the parties held here.

“Since I’ve been here, I’ve been to several Morale, Welfare and Recreation parties. They are good parties, but they are all geared to southeastern hip-hop. I would see people not into that music being wallflowers so I convinced MWR to let me have a Latin party,” said Carde.

Kellogg, Brown and Root provided appetizers for the servicemembers.

A Merengue contest was held after the contestants had time to warm up. The crowd decided who won by the loudest shout. The winners were Sgt. Cesar Soto, team member, 705th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, Fort Polk, La. and Spc. Cassie Blair, promotions clerk,



Spc. Cassie Blair and Sgt. Cesar Soto compete in the Merengue contest. They each won a portable CD player.



433rd Personnel Support Detachment, Paoli, Ind., who won portable CD players.

Carde was happy with the turnout of the party and is hoping to hold another soon. She would also like to see someone pick up where she left off. She thinks having a variety of parties is very important.

“It’s important in an environment like this to have a variety because there are so many different people. We need a well rounded variety,” said Carde.

“There is no excuse why someone can’t have a party out here. MWR is more than willing to help,” she added. “MWR is very supportive.”



Above: Some Latinos play traditional Latino music during the Latin party on Saturday.

Left: Soldiers enjoy a dance during the Latin party on Saturday. The party coordinator, Pfc. Christina Carde, was happy with the turnout.



Photo by USMC Staff Sgt. Amy L. Forsythe

Sam Stacy, civil engineer with USACE from Vicksburg, Miss., inspects the methods of an Afghan worker while he shaves wood materials used to reconstruct the soldier barracks at Pol-e-Charki Village. Most of the raw materials used are prepared without use of mechanized tools.

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The AAO, located in the heart of Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul, is expected to grow to a staff of nearly 65 people by summer to keep up with the increasing demands of creating five base camps for training and sustainment.

The goal is to build structures to "Afghan supportable standards," Derrick said. The USACE is supervising the reconstruction of buildings that were once used by the Soviets, then used and destroyed by the Taliban at the Kabul Military Training Center and the Pol-e-Charki Soldier Barracks.

In addition to rebuilding destroyed or bombed out buildings, the USACE is creat-

ing an entirely new infrastructure with electricity, water and a sewage system to support the largest of the five base camps near the Pol-e-Charki village, just 10 kilometers north-east of Kabul.

The Pol-e-Charki site is the home for the of ANA's "Central Corps," headquarters. The land sprawls over 272 acres on which the AAO engineers are renovating or building several barracks, headquarters buildings, motor pools, medical clinics, dining and recreational facilities to eventually billet three brigades, approximately 9,000 soldiers, Derrick added.

The AAO staff is comprised of an all-volunteer force split evenly between military and civilian personnel pooled from across the U.S. For the civilians assigned to the AAO, it's an

unfamiliar environment working in a combat zone, said resident civil engineer Sam Stacy, from Vicksburg, Miss. "It's the first time I've worked so closely with soldiers and there is so much structure in the day. It reminds me of college," he said.

"It's definitely been career and life enhancing to be directly supporting Operation Enduring Freedom," Stacy said. Like so many others serving here he added, "My family misses me a lot, but they are proud of me."

The engineers conduct daily quality assurance and quality control visits to every site ensuring the work remains on track for time and budget. The USACE acts as a general contractor with sub-contractors who employ up to 1,000 Afghan workers everyday.

"Almost all of the work on the site is done by local skilled and general laborers," Derrick said. The entire budget for building ANA's Central Corps' base camps is approximately \$220 million. "But the opportunity to employ this many Afghans is an incredible boost to the local economy which has yet to be measured."

The base camps for the ANA are funded by several countries. The United Kingdom, Taiwan and several others are considering becoming donor nations. The USACE has set forth construction standards for the ANA project that call for maximizing use of local materials, methods and labor in order to provide basic standards for safety, sanitation and seismic conditions.

Many of the construction methods such as creating cement, installing windows or crafting door frames are passed down from generation to generation. The local workers haven't been introduced to mechanized or electronic tools so their work is done by hand and without electricity. "The resources are very limited here, but somehow they continue to build solid structures," Derrick said.

The USACE engineers have seen construction techniques here that they've never seen before but are impressed with their on-the-spot craftsmanship. "They can do so much with so little," Derrick said.

As soldiers begin moving into their new open-room type billeting, governmental stability through a centralized national army is being realized. "The construction of ANA facilities will continue at record pace as long as there are soldiers to live in them," Derrick concluded.

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Despite the challenges presented to combat forces in Afghanistan Kalinofski feels that the outcome is clear.

In an interview on FOX News with Geraldo Rivera; Kalinofski thanked all the family members for their support of the troops and made clear what he feels the outcome will be.

"...we are here, we are ready, we are at the tip of the spear and we will not fail in Afghanistan," said Kalinofski.

Kalinofski seems to have a strong concern, not only for soldiers but their families as well. He served as the 82nd Airborne Division equal opportunity advisor for three years.

"One of the jobs that went along with the equal opportunity advisor job was; I was responsible for all the family support groups at that time. Now they are called Family Readiness Groups," said Kalinofski. "I was also responsible for operating the Family Assistance Center for the 82nd Airborne Division. One of the first of it's kind."

The task force has suffered casualties during it's operations in Afghanistan and it has strengthened his concern for soldiers and their families.

"We've sustained casualties with soldiers," said Kalinofski. "It is a tragic event when we lose brave men and women. It is absolutely essential to remember that any given day, anyone of us could be taken away. We should never, ever once take each other for granted."

Despite the losses and the pressures that come with leadership in a combat zone, Kalinofski remains focused on the mission and his role as command sergeant major of TF Devil.

"I think my enlisted soldiers can expect me to first, always set the example. I will address their needs. I will make sure they are trained. I will make sure they have all the tools that they need, and all the equipment they need, in order to accomplish anything that we ask of them," said Kalinofski.

"We're never going to put soldiers anywhere in harms way unless we have overwhelming force. We're always going to give them what they need to accomplish their mission, whether it is ammo, weapon systems, or other systems that make them successful, in order to minimize loss of life, and to accomplish the mission. That's what we do. That's what the leadership team here in Afghanistan does."

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "The Object of Beauty." This story is about a ne'er do well and his girlfriend search for a thief.

Tomorrow's movie will be "The Matchmaker."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Partly cloudy H: 68F L: 39F	Mostly clear H: 75F L: 43F
Kandahar:	Dust H: 82F L: 52F	Mostly clear H: 86F L: 55F
Kabul:	Partly cloudy H: 68F L: 39F	Mostly clear H: 75F L: 43F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 75F L: 44F	Partly cloudy H: 80F L: 40F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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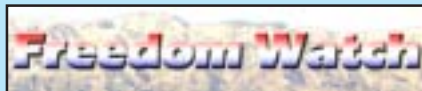
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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



Sylvain Wiltord, left, and Arsenal settle for second.

ManU wins eighth crown in 11 years

Manchester United clinched its eighth English Premier League title in 11 years when second-place Arsenal, the defending champion, lost to Leeds 3-2 Sunday.

United, which beat Charlton 4-1 Saturday, is 24-5-8 for 80 points with one game left. Arsenal is 21-6-9 for 72 points with two games left. Each victory is worth 3 points; a tie is worth 1.

Arsenal led United by eight points in the standings two months ago but let that edge slip away as the Red Devils won eight of their past nine games.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports: "It's fantastic, a great achievement by the team. We showed the perseverance and determination allied to the great ability we have, and that's what gave us the title."

Arsenal is now on 72 points with two matches remaining, and cannot overhaul Manchester United, which has 80 points with one match to play.

Arsenal can still retain the FA Cup though when it meets Southampton in the Cup Final on May 17.

Leeds, which with the victory are now safe from the threat of relegation, went ahead in the fifth minute at Highbury with a stunning goal.

Jason Wilcox set Harry Kewell up with a high, long pass from inside his own half down the Arsenal left.

The Australian chested the ball down, evaded the attentions of the chasing defenders and lashed the ball with his left foot across the despairing David Seaman and into the side-netting on the far side of the England keeper's goal.

Arsenal equalized after 30 minutes when a 25-meter drive from midfielder Ray Parlour was deflected on the post by Leeds keeper Paul Robinson, only for the lurking Footballer of the Year Thierry Henry to head the rebound into the empty net for his 23rd league goal of the season.

Leeds regained the lead two minutes into the second half from an Ian Harte free-kick after Ashley Cole had fouled Kewell.

Harte's whipped kick took a slight double-deflection off Cole

and Silva, but it was enough to put the ball beyond Seaman's reach and put Leeds 2-1 up. With both teams having everything to play for, the game switched from end to end, and Arsenal's pressure paid off after 63 minutes when a swift move involving Henry, Pires and Bergkamp ended with the Dutchman firing into the roof of the net.

Arsenal, without suspended defender Sol Campbell and injured midfielders Patrick Vieira and Freddie Ljungberg, went close to a winner when Henry hit the post after 76 minutes.

But Mark Viduka had the final say curling in a shot from the edge of the box with less than two minutes to play.

U.S. favored as new site; men's Cup may expand

The Women's World Cup will be moved from China because of SARS, soccer's governing body said Saturday.

FIFA's executive committee made the decision after consulting with the World Health Organization. The fourth Women's World Cup was to be held in China from Sept. 23 to Oct. 11.

"It will be transferred to another country in view of the current health threat in China, which is greatly affected by the SARS epidemic," FIFA said in a statement.

The committee also tentatively expanded the number of teams in the men's 2006 World Cup in Germany from 32 to 36. A final decision will come in June if the South American federation that made the proposal develops an acceptable match program.

And although most reports have mentioned Australia as the alternative site, the U.S. is now favored to be the new site of the event, according to a high-ranking official. The U.S. last hosted the Women's World Cup in 1999, when the U.S. beat China in the final.

Chuck Blazer, a New Yorker on the 24-man executive committee of FIFA, said Sunday, "My guess would be that they'll wind up here."

Blazer is the secretary general of CONCACAF, the regional governing body of North and Central America and the Caribbean, and is deputy chairman of FIFA's marketing and television advisory board.

Either the executive committee or the eight-man emergency committee will make the final decision, and U.S. soccer officials expect the new host will be determined within 10 days.

USSF secretary general Dan Flynn will head the delegation at Tuesday's meeting in Zurich, which also will include Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber and USSF deputy secretary general Jay Berhalter. Garber also is part of Soccer United Marketing, which owns the U.S. television rights to the 16-nation tournament.

China will host the 2007 Women's World Cup.

"It is our understanding Brazil, the United States and Australia are the three leading contenders to replace China as the host,"

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WUSA spokesman Dan Courtemanche said.

Soccer Australia chief executive Stefan Kamasz said last month that his country would be interested in staging the tournament, but he expressed concern about the short turnaround.

"If the opportunity arose and FIFA approached us to stage the tournament, we would seriously consider it," Kamasz said. "It would be short notice if the tournament was still set down for September, and we'd be behind the 8-ball, but I'm sure there are sufficient people with the ability to fast-track plans."

Also, many of the Australian stadiums that would be needed for soccer are locked into the rugby tournament, which runs through Nov. 22.

SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, has killed more than 400 people worldwide — the majority in China and neighboring Hong Kong — and sickened more than 6,000.

Other sports events have been affected, including the cancellation of four WNBA exhibition games against China's national team. The women's ice hockey world championships in China were canceled, and the world badminton championships in England were postponed because many Asians were expected to compete.

On Friday, the International Cycling Union moved the world track cycling championships to Europe from China.

Sixteen teams are scheduled to take part in the Women's World Cup. The United States, Nigeria, Ghana, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Germany, Norway, Russia, Sweden and France have already qualified. China automatically qualifies as the host.

A qualifying tournament in Thailand was moved from April to June because of SARS. The draw to set the groups for the finals was postponed because of concerns over SARS.

Marquez shuts down Ronaldo

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — Mexico dominated play with its speed and aggressiveness, but could not score in a 0-0 tie with World Cup champion Brazil on Wednesday night.

Mexico was faster and more aggressive, yet its shots repeatedly went wide or high, not threatening goalkeeper Dida.

Brazilian star Ronaldo was outplayed by Mexican defender Rafael Marquez. Meanwhile, Mexican attackers Jesus Arellano and Omar Bravo beat Ze Roberto and Junior with sweeps down the right side.

Mexico came close when Salvador Carmona passed to Jared Borgetti, who fired from the right side, only to see the ball bounce off the crossbar in the 41st minute.

Borgetti came close twice more on headers in the first half and three more times in the second period, but the shots wound up high, wide or in the hands of Dida.

Israel Lopez and Luis Perez also misfired in the second half for Mexico. Ronaldo was unable to break through the Mexican defense in the second half, even as teammates consistently tried to feed the ball to the Real Madrid star.

Two of his shots went high and Salvador Carmona stripped him of the ball on another threat in front of the goal.

England takes hit for fans' behavior

NYON, Switzerland — England's soccer federation was fined a record \$111,000 Thursday because fans chanted offensive slogans and twice ran on the field during a game against Turkey last month.

But UEFA, European soccer's governing body, did not order England to play its next home game in an empty stadium. England had feared such action for its June 11 game against Slovakia.

"It sends a very clear signal and a very clear warning to the English FA about these issues — safety and security on one hand, and also the issue of the racist behaviour of England fans on the other hand," UEFA spokesman Mike Lee said.

But Lee said England's efforts to tackle racism had been taken into account and "at this stage ground closure was not appropriate."

The fine stems from England's 2-0 home victory over Turkey in Sunderland on April 2 in a qualifier for the 2004 European championships. UEFA said it was the highest fine ever for this sort of trouble.

One of the vulgar taunts during the game belittled Turks and Pakistanis.

"That's the new manual for reducing weight carried by the individual rifleman. Make sure everyone has one in their pack."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support